GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4014
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
FAIR PRICE MECHANISM FOR TV CHANNELS
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the foreign pay channels are frequently increasing their subscription rates;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to ensure fair pricing mechanism and impose a freeze on current rates till the conditional access system is introduced;

(c) if not, the reasons for not enforcing the conditional access systems;

(d) whether foreign pay channels are not required to pay any sort of licence fee;

(e) if so, whether the Government are considering to enforce the same in near future;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and
(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): Subscription rates of pay channels are fixed by broadcasters from time to time on commercial considerations. Presently, there is no legal provision to regulate the subscription rates charged by the Cable Operators, Multi Service Operators or Channel Companies. Government is examining the feasibility of mandating Conditional Access System (CAS), which would,inter alia, enable the consumer to pay for only those Pay Channels that he chooses to watch.

(d) to (g): In the Guidelines for uplinking from India, there is no provision forcharging any licence fee from any TV channel nor is there any proposal under consideration for doing so. However, to encourage foreign satellite channels to start uplinking from India, the Government has liberalized the uplinking policy. All TV channels, irrespective of ownership, equity structure ormanagement control, can uplink from India, provided they undertake to comply with the Broadcast Codes laid down by Government.